

BEFORE THE
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20268

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In the Matter of:

ORCHARD, IA 50460
Post Office State ZIP Code

POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Docket No: A2012-45

Judith A. Schimpf Petitioner(s)

PARTICIPANT STATEMENT

1. Petitioner(s) are appealing the Postal Service's Final Determination concerning the ORCHARD post office. The Final Determination was posted Oct. 3, 2011 (date)

2. In accordance with applicable law, 39 U.S.C. § 404(d)(5), the Petitioner(s) request the Postal Regulatory Commission to review the Postal Service's determination on the basis of the record before the Postal Service in the making of the determination.

3. Petitioners: Please set out below the reasons why you believe the Postal Service's Final Determination should be reversed and returned to the Postal Service for further consideration. (See pages of the Instructions for an outline of the kinds of reasons the law requires us to consider.) Please be as specific as possible. Please continue on additional paper if you need more space and attach the additional page(s) to this form.

See additional Pages-

The Postal Service's Final Determination should be reversed and returned to the Postal Service for further consideration. I have included a copy of my October 18, 2011 letter for your review again.

Rural communities face greater hardships than larger cities with the closing of post offices. Some of these small communities have lost their schools and losing a post office would certainly take away the heart of the Orchard Community. Without a Post Office new businesses would not even consider coming to Orchard even though it has a railroad and a water and sewer system, low taxes, and even access to fiber optics. Not having a Post Office is hard on senior citizens. Many receive medications in the mail and the mail which they receive and send is the primary connection to the outside world. It would be difficult for them to get mail from a cluster box located blocks from their home, and even more so in extreme weather with ice and snow. The small towns and people should not have to suffer, but that seems to always be the way. The Postal Service seems to always cut where there is the least amount of resistance. Cut some administration and save some real money! Do we really need some 67 districts in the Postal Service with those managers making a million dollars a year? We only have 50 states. The Postal Service is not saving any significant monies by closing the Orchard Post Office. I would dispute their figure of saving \$27,694 by closing the Orchard Post Office. The Officer in Charge barely makes \$15,000 a year with no paid holidays, sick leave, vacation time, insurance, or pension.

The small town Post Office (in this case being the Orchard Post Office) is a very strong resource in America. Please do not destroy it! Judith A. Schimpf

Judith A. Schimpf
204 Church Street
PO Box 73
Orchard, Iowa 50460

October 18, 2011

Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue NW, Suite 200
Washington DC 20268-0001

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to appeal the final determination to close the Orchard Post Office which serves me and this small town and the community of farmers around it. I am the editor of a small not-for-profit newsletter, and I rely on the Orchard Post Office for mailing 130 newsletters each month. I buy all my stamps from this post office. It would be a great inconvenience to me if this post office would be closed.

I noticed a few errors in the Final Determination to Close Letter that was displayed at the Orchard Post Office. I would like to point those out. Under the section of the publication, entitled **EFFECT ON COMMUNITY**, it was stated, "Businesses and organizations include: First United Congregational Church of Christ, Mehmen Lawn Care, Halbach Construction, Still Water Greenhouse, Floyd-Mitchell-Chickasaw Solid Waste Management, Cedar River Taxidermy..." The name of the church is incorrect. It is The First Congregational Church of Orchard, UCC. Two other businesses were not mentioned. They are the Tim Betts Trucking Co. and a Day Care Service. And, yes, there are quite a few retirees and many commuters, but there are eight families who have between 2-4 school age children. Orchard is a safe place to raise children.

I disagree with the Final Determination to Close Letter on the section entitled "SOME ADVANTAGES OF THE PROPOSAL ARE:" In the No. 1 reason, it was stated "the rural and contact carriers may provide retail services, alleviating the need to go to the post office. Stamps by Mail order forms are provided for customer convenience." What a lame reason. The people of this community love to go to the Orchard Post Office. It gives them a chance to visit with neighbors in town and out and to talk to a very nice human postal person when ordering stamps, sending packages, or just receiving a nice "Hello, how are you?" No. 2 stated, "Customers opting for carrier service will have 24-hour access to their mail," I think that needs some explanation. No. 3 stated "Savings for the Postal Service contribute in the long run to stable postage rates and saving for customers." Well, if the Postal Service would cut hours for all post offices, it would be a great savings, a savings in keeping all post offices. Closing small post offices is not the answer. Why do big businesses and government always hurt the little people? Cut at the top once in awhile. No. 4 stated, "CBUs can offer the security of individually locked mail compartments. Parcel lockers provide convenient parcel delivery for customers." Well, I like picking up my package at the post office. It is safe and dry and out of the bad weather in the winter. NO. 5 stated, "Customers opting for carrier service will not have to pay post office box fees." It was and is a personal choice to have a PO Box. Now the USPS wants to take that choice away from people who have PO Boxes at the Orchard Post Office. No. 6 stated, "Saves time and energy for customers who drive to the post office to pick up mail." That is really laughable. What a weak advantage. Most people in this town love to walk to the post office for the exercise. It is not a hardship. I would suggest the US Postal Service look again at their so-called advantages for closing this Orchard Post Office. The small town post office is a very strong resource in America. Do not destroy it!

Sincerely yours,

Judith A. Schimpf